Potential of Defence Industry

4208. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the huge potential in the defence industry has not been fully tapped;

(b) whether Government proposes to take any step to tap the potential in defence industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The potential in the Defence Industry is utilized to meet the requirements of Armed Forces.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Efforts are made to fully tap the potential in Defence industry by also catering to the requirements of the Civil Sector like the State Police & Para-military Forces and through exports.

Performance of Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.

4209. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. has improved its performance over the past, and whether it was incurring losses earlier to this;

(b) which are the main customers including defence and what is the ratio of orders between these two in terms of value of orders; and

(c) whether the unit propose to diversify in other sectors and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) has been a profit making company ever since its inception. Profit Before Tax (PBT) for the last 5 years is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

					(Provisional)
Year	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
PBT	2.72	23.60	10.65	13.01	31.26